

Banker Lance on Two Lists

Carter Thins Choices For Cabinet Selections

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President-elect Jimmy Carter says his list of possible appointees to key Cabinet posts had been whittled down to a handful, with Atlanta banker Thomas Bertram Lance scheduled to be the first one named — within the next few days.

Carter said last night that Lance, a longtime friend, would be appointed either secretary of the treasury or director of the Office of Management and Budget.

He said he had already talked to a number of other people who might be named to the Cabinet, but that "none of them has a commitment from me."

THE PRESIDENT-ELECT said in a CBS-TV television interview that the list for secretary of state was down to five names, and for treasury secretary to 10.

The list of potential National Security Council advisers — "one of the key people" — also had been brought down to five, Carter said.

Consideration of some other cabinet posts, such as Health, Education and Welfare, was not so far advanced.

He said once only four or five names remain, "We go into background in great depth," preparing a 15- to 20-page book on the possible Cabinet member.

On other topics, Carter said:

• At present, "I can't foresee any need for mandatory wage-price controls."

• "I would like to have President Ford help me, I think a lot of him. . . . He performed well in my opinion in the aftermath of Watergate when our country was torn apart."

"President Truman called on former President Hoover to help him and I would hope I could have that opportunity to call on President Ford on occasion to help me and I believe he would respond well."

• Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger had told him the Soviets had never made a flat statement to him which Kissinger later discovered was a lie although the "impression" they left was sometimes not exactly what they meant.

On the other hand, Kissinger told Carter, if the Chinese make a statement "you can depend on it being exactly what you thought it was and what they said it was." Carter added that he felt that was "encouraging."

• He felt the lack of progress in the second phase of the Strategic Arms Limitation agreement with the Soviet Union reflected "an incompatibility among the cabinet officers in their opinions about what ought to be done. This in my opinion should have been resolved months and months ago."

• In general, his briefings on current Soviet-American relations had disclosed "nothing that would cause me fear or consternation or tremendous surprise."

IN A LONGER, late-evening version of the interview, Carter discussed several other points.

It was "not proper at this time to say yes or no," he said, to suggestions by congressmen he should keep Kissinger in some administration post. Kissinger, he said, "is a superb negotiator" and "if at some time in the future when I thought his services would be the best available" in such sensitive areas as the Middle East or Panama, "I would not hesitate to call on him to help me." However, he termed it "unlikely" Kissinger would be offered any permanent post in the new administration.

Asked whether he would dismiss FBI Director Clarence Kelley, he admitted that "to be honest about it — I hate to admit it — I don't even know if I have the authority to discharge him if I wanted to. I haven't looked into that."

Carter added "As a general principle, I think the director of the FBI, the director of the CIA, probably ought to change with administrations, rather than setting up a continuing hierarchy in those departments. They're so sensitive, quite often they act in such deep secrecy, there may be some danger in the future in building up permanent directors of those agencies."

CARTER MET yesterday with former ambassador Averell Harriman, who recently returned from Moscow, and left that session "with an optimistic feeling about relations between the United States and Russia," according to his press secretary, Jody Powell.

Harriman earlier told newsmen he thinks Soviet Premier Leonid Brezhnev will be less likely to test Carter harshly than Nikita Khrushchev tested President John Kennedy.

Carter met first with Harriman and staff members for 65 minutes, then the two had a 30-minute private meeting. Powell said he did not know if Harriman had brought a personal message from Brezhnev.

At a press briefing, Powell said that Carter is nearing a decision on tough prohibitions against conflict of interest by federal officials, including restrictions on moving out of federal regulatory agency jobs to posts with the industries they have been regulating.

Powell also said that reports that CIA Director George Bush resigned because Carter was displeased with his intelligence briefing "are completely untrue" and that Carter considered the briefings "professional and competent and most helpful."

Powell declined to give details of Carter's proposed conflict of interest regulations, but he did say a pledge not to move from a federal post to a related industry for a certain time is "a part of it."